The proceedings of this hopeful body, though no worth reporting in full, are deserving a brief notice.

Mr. Gibbon of N. C. distinguished himself by pro-

pending the following proposition:

If he (Mr. G.) had a slave, and thought proper to teach him astronomy and make a pilot of him, and he should hire out that slave to carry a ship to Liverpool, the Government of the United States would be bound to protect that property of his. He wanted the expression of the Convention on that point."

The Convention, it is to be regretted, did not give an opinion on this highly practical question. Its discussion was superceeded by a more pression quantum.

sion was superceded by a more pressing question asmely, whether there were members enough present and States enough represented to warrant the mem-bers in attempting to sit. Mr. Magruder of Virginia, as we are told, suggested that the Convention should mmediately adopt the preamble and resolutions, with the exception of that providing for the adjournment, and afterward take the sense of the body on that. He regretted that the adjournment so early should have been contemplated. He could not see that there was any reason why they should not now, as well as at any time, proceed to discuss matters of business. Their ers were, he admitted, sparse, but yet six Southern States and the District of Columbia were represented. He did not want it to go out that the meeting was a failure; and if they should declare so by their adjournment, that action would throw a damper upon all future meetings. He thought it would weaken their influence if they now adjourned; besides, the citizens of Richmond had, with their usual hospitality, been at great trouble and expense in preparing for their entertainment; and he asked would it be fair to subject them again to a like cause of trouble and expense He reasoned that very large bodies are not favorable to wise deliberations, but that on the contrary a small body is more likely to achieve beneficial results. He felt assured that the subjects they had met to discuss could be as fully discussed and matured now as at any time. He therefore moved to strike out the resolution providing for an adjournment.

Another delegate spoke against adjournment; it would be making a laughing-stock of themselves. Dr. Brewer of Maryland thought it was doubtful if they would ever get so large a meeting together if they adjourned. Gen. Green of Texas considered the Convention rather a Virginia Convention than a Southern or outh-western one, for beside the Virginia delegation, there are only seventeen members present. Finally the Convention refused to adjourn, and went head and shoulders into the project of a direct Southern line of steamships with Europe. From the debate on this subject we give a few extracts:

subject we give a few extracts:

"Mr. Funsden of Alexandria was opposed to the second resolution, asking the patronage of the Federal Government for a line of steamers. He objected to Southern people continuing this clamorous cry to the FederalG overnment. It was not so with the Northern people. They relied on their own efforts. And when the South shall stretch out her iron arms to the West they would succeed in their enterprise without any aid from the Federal Government. He osked that votes abould be taken separately on the resolutions.

"The preamble and first resolution were first voted.

"The preamble and first resolution were first voted on viva voce and adopted.
"The second resolution was again reported as fol-

iowa:

"Resolved, That the Senators and Representatives from the
Southern and South-western States be requested to vote for no
laws granting appropriations in sid of ocean small lines connecting at a Northern port, without the insertion of a clause binding the Government to extend the like sid to any line or lines
which may be reafter be established between ports in the Southern States and foreign ports.

"Mr. Lyons of Virginia did not regard the resolu-tion in the same light in which it had been viewed by the gentleman (Mr. Funsden). It only directed the Senators and Members of Congress, if a Northern mail line be established or aided by Congress, that a like aid shall be extended to the South. If he were satisfied that a mail line could not be supported with-out the aid of the Government, he would vote for that aid being given; and if given to the North, he would require it also for the South. But the resolu-tion does not direct Senators or Representatives to would require it also for the South. But the resolution does not direct Senators or Representatives to
vote for supporting a mail line. He therefore did not
consider the resolution objectionable on that point.
He desired to see a line of steamers established in
the South; and although he himself would prefer to
see Norfolk chosen, he would vote for Charleston, Baltimore, or any other port with equal cheerfulness.

"Mr. Funsden of Alexandria looked upon the resolation as a mere abstraction. He showed the absurdity of objecting to give Government aid to a North-

intion as a mere abstraction. He showed the absurdity of objecting to give Government aid to a Northern enterprise unless similar aid was extended to the South. It might be, he said, that the one enterprise is all that is needed of the kind. Suppose, he said, that there was an appropriation made to the Collins line on condition that a like appropriation should be made to the South; and suppose that the South did not establish its line for years, should the appropriation to the Collins line be withheld on that account?

Mr. Lyons of Va. did not think the resolution sus

entible of the construction thus given to it.

'Mr. Funsden insisted that there was nothing at all practical in the resolution. The purpose he had in view was to divert the people of the South from the hope of getting aid from the Federal Government.

hope of getting aid from the Federal Government.
They had never got such aid, and they never would.
He wanted to shut out that faint glimmer of light
which he was sorry to see still pressing on the eyelids
of the people of the South.

6. "Gen. Green of Texas asked Mr. Funsden whether
he believed there were enterprise and capital enough in
the State of Virginia to establish a line of steamers
which would cost some \$3,000,000; and also whether,
if he answered in the affirmative, he would say that
that line could exist in competition with the Collins
line, backed by \$900,000 a year from the General Government. "A member from Virginia thought they were wast

"A member from Virginia thought they were wasting their time on a subject on which they could effect nothing, and neglecting that for which they had come here. They were here to discuss questions of Southern industry and enterprise, and not their relations with the General Government. It was absurd to be talking about Government aid to a Southern mail line while no such line exists. It would be time enough to talk about that when the line existed. They ought to dicuss rather the questions of stimulating agriculture, manufactures, railroads and other industrial enterprises."

This was very excellent advice in the gentleman from Texas, but advice which it was much easier for him to give than for the Members of the Convention

The only other thing which we observe worthy of notice in the proceedings of this body was their eating a dinner provided for them by the City of Richmond after which they adjourned to meet some other time in Mobile. Governor Wise's speech at the dinner we have poticed elsewhere.

GOVERNOR WISE ON POLITICAL NAVI-GATION AND SOUTHERN TRADE.

[His speech at the Richmond dinner to the Southern Com-

The next tonst was-The next tonst was—
General Henry A. Wise—The chosen navigator of the good ship Virginia—In every storm the pilot will remember her chart, compass and anchor—Constitution, State Rights, Union.

Gov. Wise responded. He was received with the most flattering demonstrations of favor. He prefaced his speech by intimating that it was not favorable for a speaker to east reflections upon his audience, but the occasion reminded him of a simple song called "Dolly Nuteracker," for he had never beard so much nuteracking in his life as he heard this evening; and if they would desist for a while from that operation he would endeavor to get through the few remarks he felt called on to make. The toast, he said, which compliments Virginia and compliments the Governor of pliments Virginia and compliments the Governor of Virginia, I myself am bound to compliment. But you are not to expect the Governor of Virginia to speak here. He is not allowed to speak here: I only speak for myself [applaa-e]. The toast is of a nautical character, and I am truly somewhat of a salt-water man. I was born on the Atlantic shore of this State, where the inlight of my endle west the construction. I was born on the Atlantic shore of this State, where the hallaby of my cradle was the ocean's mean. You have said that I am chosen to be the navigator of the good old ship Virginia, and, sailer-like, I giory to boast of my ship [applause]. As old Ironsides stands amid the ships of the Navy, so old Virginia stands amid the States of the world [applause]. I feel pride in my ship, which not only in peace "walks the waters like "a thing of life," but in war thunders like a god. I remember that when

With Darres in command.

Ironsides never struck her flag [Applause]. And I abould not be fit to be chosen as a coxwain of a cockle boat, much less the Palinurus of this fine old ship Virginia, if I allowed a spar of her to suffer. Not only should I be Court-Marshaled if I did so, but I should be anathema maranatha [Applause]. I have heard a veteran officer say that no matter how strong the enemy may be, whether a 14 or a 120-gun ship. Old Ironsides must fight; she cannot yield when once the

enemy appears before her. The flag of Ironsides—the flag of Old Virginia—mustbe nailed to the mast [vociferous applause], and when the cannon booms and old ocean feels the shock of the strife, she may go down—she may be swallowed up in the deep sea—but, going down, the flag will still be there, and shall flaunt in the element of the water as it flaunts in the element of the air [Tremendous applause]. The toast says that the pilot will remember her chart—the chart by which I am to suil is the Constitution. What Constitution? You have used ithe definite article. I will remember the Constitution of the United States, and I will also remember the Constitution of Virginia [Applause]. I have, like every other pilot whose ship is well provided, more charts than one. [Laughter]. The ship sails not only over Federal waters, but over State waters. I will remember the chart of the United States when on Federal waters, and when I come into the State waters, I will remember that there is another chart to steer by [Applause]. And, as your toast says, I will remember not only the chart, but the compass too. If there be anything that is a myth—anything spiritual in physic—it is that magnetism which makes the needle turn to the pole; and if there be anything in politics which to the pole; and if there be anything in politics which is a myth, and which is spiritual, it is that invisible thing which you call State sovereignty [Applause]. I will remember all the assess of the compass. That scintillating diamond of the sky which we call the North Star, I will steer by, and when my ship is borne away from here, and the star sinks below the horizon. I will look in the heavens for another sun—the star of the Southern Cross [Applause]. And I am to remember the anchor. I will remember it, so help me TO THE PRIENDS OF TEMPERANCE IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK. FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: Filled with grati-

I will look in the heavens for another sun—the star of the Southern Cross [Applause]. And I am to remember the anchor. I will remember it, so help me God [Applause]. I will remember the anchor. The anchor has no uses in the deep, deep sea; the anchor has no uses in the unfathomed profound of events. In grappling ground, however, wherever we can put out the anchor, I shall do so, right bower and left bower, so that the ship may ride safe from truck to keelson. But when the storm comes, and we have to face old Æolus, I will hoist my anchor and "lie to," as sailors are (Geest anglause). I will remember that your

will come of it unless you act and act with energy

or fifty years for the Custom-riouse, and had to give up the fight. After New-York, Boston and Philadelphia, Baltimore, Sir, your city (turning to Gen. Tilghman), is the fourth center of trade; and mark the fact that you have to coast along the Atlantic to New-Orleans before you come to another center of commerce. That is the fifth; Cincinnati is the sixth. But Virginia has no center of commerce of her own, because she has not exerted her influence, tunneled the mountain and rolled up the big bend of the Ohio [Applause]. Gentlemen, I did not mean to make an argument or speech to-night on internal improvements. But I do say here to the men of Virginia, that this State is rich enough for every son of hers to do her reverence [Applause]. Her people have energy enough and strength enough to do her work [Loud applause]. If you face the music with me, I will face it with you [Laughter and applause]. And to the whole South I would say: "Go and collect yourselves around your centers." And to all I conclude with the sentiment:

The Union, now and foreser.

And to all I conclude with the sentiment:

The Union, now and forever.

I swear by the chart and by the compass, and by
the anchor of our faith, that I never will fight against
the Union. I will fight for it [Loud applause]. In
the midst of storms they must let me judge what is
fighting for it [Continued applause]. But let me finish
the teast:

The Union, note and forester—In the storm the South must hoist aschor and lie to.

Mr. Wise retired a mid deafening hurras, and it was a considerable time afterward before the party showed any disposition to cool down from the excitement occasioned by his elaquent discourse and listen to the more commonplace speeches of the evening.

After some time, however, the Chairman proposed the following toast in honor of the Virginia Legislature:

The Legislature of Virginia—The people of the State son-fiding in the shifty, talents and particulum of their representatives, look to them with assured hope to advance the social, political and material interests confided to their charge.

LETTING THE UNION SLIDE.

We extract the following from The Herald's report of the dinner given by the City of Richmond to the delegates to the Southern Commercial Convention:

delegates to the Southern Commercial Convention:

"The next toast was in honor of Texas:

"Texas, the Lone Star: It has grown brighter and brighter in
the constellation of States.

"General Green responded: Although, he said, he
would rather fight Indians and Mexicans, or even the
English, than make a speech, [laughter], he thanked
Virginia for the compliment to Texas. He said that
in the days of Jackson fullbusterism was not prescribed
as it is now for them he (Green) was permitted to

as it is now, for then he (Green) was permitted to raise a regiment in New-Orleans and go to fillibuster in Texas. [Laughter]. He was a fillibuster and proud of it, and saw no good reason why the people of this country should not make an effort to help their neigh-bors to the blessing of liberty. [Applause]. In con-clusion, he cave—

clusion, he gave—
"The Southern Republic: Bounded on the North by Mason
and Dixon's Line, on the South by Patagonia—embracing the
valley of the Amazon, with all the Africans in it. [Laughter

"Mr. Archer proposed the toast to the District of Columbia:

"The District of Columbia: The battle ground of Southern institutions—we plant our standard here. Who will desert that fag? Air by the band.

"Mr. Ould of Georgetown responded to the toast. He would say for the District, that if any controversy takes place between the two sections of this country, the position she would occupy in it is very well known, she cherishes the sentiments of the whole South, although she is on the Northern frontier. The point which has been made the fulcrum of Slavery agitated in Congress, shall be, if it comes to that, made 'the

which has been made the fluctum of Slavery agitated in Congress, shall be, if it comes to that, made 'the bloody ground,' and it shall prove itself, like the arch, the stronger for the pressure. He knew there would be, in an event of that kind, the strongest responsibility devolving upon a people holding such relations with the North as the District of Columbia did. But her

people had learned to meet this resposibility. The had stared at the Meduca head and were not turned to stone. [Applause]. The South might, therefore rely upon the District, that when the time comes they will redeem the promises they had made."

SLEDS-A NEW PLAN WORTHY OF FARMERS' NO-

TICE -There is a fashion of making sleds in this city

that should be known to every farmer. It is this;

set of wagon hubs, with boxes of same size of those

of the wagon in common use have about three spoke

inserted upon one side, to the ends of which, in place of

the felloe, a short sled runner is attached. When snow

comes the wheels are taken off the axles and the habs

of the runners are put on. The wagon bed and all the

running-gear stands upon a pair of bob sleds instead of

four wheels. The change can be made in fifteen

minutes, and the cost is inconsiderable. It would be a

good plan for every farmer in a snowy country when

ne orders a new wagon to order a set of runners at the same time. As Summer always is more destructive to sleds than Winter, this plan has one great advan-

tage-the runners occupy so little room when off that

AID FOR THE NORFOLK ORTHANS -The Rev. J. Stockbridge, Chaplain of the United States ship Sa-

vannah, writes a friend, under date Rio de Janeiro,

Dec. 15, 1805, as follows:

"We have read with a painful interest the details of death's doings at Norfolk and Portsmouth. Va., during the past Summer and Autumn, and our sympathies have been particularly enlisted in behalf of the poor little children who have been made orphan's by the yellow fever. The officers and crew of this frigate have just raised, by subscription, for the benefit of such indigent orphans, the sum of \$552, and a draft for that amount will be forwarded to the Mayor of Norfolk by the Sam Slick."

A salute was fired at Yonkers on Monday evening,

in honor of the recent exhibition of Republican "back-

a place can be found to store them under cover.

Dec. 15, 1855, as follows:

bones at Washington.

Mr. Archer proposed the toast to the District of

ude to Almighty God for the mighty things which have been already wrought for Temperance by the PRESS, and deeply solicitous that the fullness and strength of this agency should be enlisted at the present era of the reform, the New-York State Temperano Society, at its late annual meeting on the 17th of January, adopted with zealous unanimity the following

resolution:

"Recoled, That this meeting urge upon the friends of the assessment of the Parks to enlighten and stimulate public sentiment, and while we commend the increased circulation of all Temper and while we commend the increased circulation of all Temper and papers, we expecially urge the friends in this and other States to the prompt adoption of measures by which to supply every family with a copy of the Society's monthly paper, The Profibitionist."

The undersigned (who at the same time were ap-The undersigned (who at the same time were appointed to officiate as Executive Committee for the casuing year) partake deeply of the feeling expressed in the above resolution of the Society, and they solicit for it the attentive consideration of every well-wisher for Temperance in the State, and especially (to use the words of the late Dr. Justin Edwards) "the old, sub-"stantial, and long-tried friends of the cause." What the Committee are profoundly convinced of themselves they would impress deeply upon the minds of all their collaborers, that much of the old warfare is now to be fought over again. The end-avors of good men to reclaim community from the evils of intemperance were found to be impassably obstructed by the licensed liquor traffic. Accordingly the united agency of the workers for Temperance during the past few years has been directed at the statute-book. The abolition of the license system and the enactment of the law of prohibition is the result of their joint toils and struggles; and it is a great and signal advance in the progress of the movement. All efforts to repeal it will prove abortive; a majority of the House of Assembly and at least twenty-three out of the thirty-two members of the Senate will firmly resist any such attempt. When sustained by the Court of Appeals (and we are sanguine that it will be) it will be a mighty agency with which to abate the evils of intemperance and all its kindred abominations. So far from relaxing any of our former efforts, however, the fact that the law of the land is now with us should incite us to revive all the old appliances of the cause, and to employ anew the whole machinery of moral suasion, including meetings, lectures, sermons, and the printed sheet. The vital interests of pointed to officiate as Executive Committee for th But when the storm comes, and we have to face out

Æolus, I will hoist my anchor and "lie to," as sailors

say [Great applause]. I will remember that your
compass of States' Rights still points me to the chart.

I say on this occasion to the men of the Commercial Convention, that in the light of a sectional
and controversial assemblage, it may tend to do
more haim than good to hold such assemblages,
unless there be in them unity of action. But
there is, however, more than sectionalism in holding
these conventions. Its high and chief object is to hold
your Union safe. If in the course of events, one party
in a union becomes so weak as to be likely to become
provincialized, there can be nothing more dangereus
to the perpetuity of the Union than such weakness.
You must, therefore, exert your wisdom and energy
to restore the equilibrium. You must concentrate capital and population in the South. But how? You
may resolve and re-resolve, and resolve again, but no
good will come of it unless you act and act with energy. ances of the cause, and to employ anew the whole machinery of moral suasion, including meetings, lectures, sermons, and the printed sheet. The vital interests of Temperance, and even of Probibition, call for a general revival of the whole Temperance sentiment of the State. And in saying this we must not be understood as admitting for a moment that the principle and policy of Prohibition is not now approved by a majority of the people. On the contrary, we stoutly maintain that by any fair test it will be found that more than two-thirds of the men of New-York and more than nineteen-twentieths of the women are heartily in favor of the Prohibitory Law. But we speak as officers of a Society whose objects are not only to suppress the public traific, but to persuade all men and women not only to upstimence themselves. may resolve and re-resolve, and resolve again, but no good will come of it unlees you act and act with energy. You must act in concert as well as individually. In the kingdom of commerce, as in the kingdom of grace, each must look out for himself, [Laughter]. We hear a good deal about the balance of trade. The great cause of capital here and throughout the world, is not the balance of trade, but it is the center of trade. I don't care how many million of dollars London may owe New-York, it can't alter the fact that a Spanish milldollar is worth more in London than New-York and I don't care how many millions of dollars New-York may owe Virginia, it don't alter the fact that a Spanish milldollar is worth more in New-York than it is in Virginia, And the reason of it is that London is to New-York what New-York is to Virginia, the center of trade. And it is absurd to think of deposing New-York from her position. New-York is irresistibly made, by the law of the trade winds, by the law of icebergs, by her situation, the first seat of commercial trade for the country. Philadelphia fought her for fifty years for the Custom-House, and had to give up the fight. After New-York, Boston and Philadelphia, Baltimore, Sir, your city (turning to Gen. Tilghman) is the fourth center of trade; and mark the fact

fic, but to persuade all men and women not only to uphold Prohibition as to others, but to practice total abstinence themselves.

Especially would we now, in the spirit of the above resolution, urge the circulation, on a large and generous scale, of Temperance periodicals, and which address themselves with vigor to the present necessities of the Reform and the new duties of its friends. It is a very great mistake, and which Temperance men should at once get rid of, that they no longer need the light and stimulus of Temperance papers. On the contrary, there never was a time when such auxiliaries were so much needed. The great body of the Press of the State, monthly, weekly and daily, are either indifferent or actively hostile to the Prohibitory Law, and the public mind is being abused on this subject to a degree which has never been exceeded in the history of journalism in a free country. There is a crying need of Temperance papers to meet and expose the misrepresentations of the enemies of Prohibition, and to inform and encourage its friends. Nor is it enough (though we certainly ought to be very grateful for all such assistance) that a portion of the political Press occasionally favors the movement; experience teaches that whoever puts party first and Temperance afterward, is often to be relied on least when his services are most wanted. Too many cherished and important interests are involved in the Temperance Reform not to have papers devoted to them as a speciality.

Beside which, notwithstanding all that has been

Beside which, notwithstanding all that has been

Beside which, notwithstanding all that has been done, there are whole classes of society, not a few of whom are otherwise well read and intelligent, who have either forgot, or else never knew, the fundamental principles of the Temperance Reform. A new generation has grown up who have never been indoctrinated with these wholesome and important trutts. On this general head it is sufficient to call attention to the fact that almost all the arguments which appear against Prohibition, weigh equally against Total Abstinence.

THE FIGHTISTIST.

The Committee adapt their monthly paper—The Prohibitionsi—to the present juncture, treating of such topics and such duties as grow out of the current necessities of the Reform. They feel well assured, that so far as it depends upon them, the work of public enlightenment can be most effectually accomplished through that instrmentality. To give this sheet the largest attainable circulation and influence, it is furnished by the Society at the bare cost of printing and paper. One copy is sent for \$25 one hundred copies are sent to one address, and the postage prepaid by the Society. Every reader of this will please to consider himself personally solicited either by his own order, for gratuitous circulation, or by making up subscription-lists, to supply every family in his neighborhood with a copy of The Prohibitionist for 1856.

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF PROHIBITION.

The article which the Society had the good fortune to call out from Prof. Edward L. Youmans, entitled, "The Scientific Basis of Prohibition," and published

The article which the Society had the good fortune to call out from Prof. Edward L. Youmans, entitled, "The Scientific Basis of Prohibition," and published simultaneously in The New-York Tributes and The Prohibitionist for November, 1855, has attracted more attention, and elicited more praise than any paper which has appeared on the subject of Temperance for years. The accuracy of its facts and reasoning are fully indersed by the most eminent scientific and professional men in the United States, and it is justly recorded as a complete refutation of the arguments of fessional men in the United States, and it is justly regarded as a complete refutation of the arguments of The Westminster Review, and such journals as follow its example in this country. In compliance with a general desire by the most eminent friends of Temperance throughout the Union, a very cheap but well-printed edition of this admirable Essay has been printed by the Society, and will be farnished (postage or express charges prepaid by the Society) at \$1 for one hundred copies; and at the same rate for a larger number.

number.

The admirable series of twelve tracts, devoted to so many phases of the Prohibitory Reform, are still furnished at the rate of 504 tracts for \$1-postage prepaid. These publications of the Society are furnished for the most part at the bare cost of publication, leaving the office expenses and other outlays of the Society to be met by voluntary contributions. In this humane and philauthropic spirit, which has marked the Temperance Reform at every stage, we solicit our coworkers in every county, town, city and ward in the State to exhaust the efficacy of these and all kindred appliances, and so at once to build up an overwhelming Prohibition sentiment against the traffic, and effect a radical change in the whole drinking usages of sor sty. All orders for Prohibitomists, Essays and Tracts, to be addressed (with the money) "O. Scovill, Publishing Agent, Albany, N. Y." Donations of money for the objects of the Society are solicited; to be forwarded to the Publishing Agent, or to the Treasurer of the Society. "The Hon. Erastus Coming, Albany, N. Y." EDWARD C. DELAVAN. A. A. FARR.

JOHN N. WILDER. ARCHIBALD MCCLURE.

WM. MCELROY. AMASS MCCOY. C. P. WILLIAMS. HERMON CAMP.

WM. G. BOARDMAN. AMOS DEAN.

Ex. Com. of the New York State Ten persure Society.

"Money, Thursday, Jan. 31, 1836." AMOS DEAN.

Ex. Com. of the New York State Ten persure Society.

"All editors in the State of New-York are respectfully solicited, as a favor to Temperance and the Society, to publish the above Address. number.

The admirable series of twelve tracts, devoted to so

THE COLD-INJERY TO FRUIT-BUDS.-Owing to the ong-continuance of excessive cold weather, the fruithads are undoubtedly injured to a very great extent, particularly in the Middle and South-Western States, where the cold has been more intense than it has been known before for many years. Only think of the Ohio River at Cincinnati frozen over a foot-and-a-half thick, and the Mississippi closed with ice as low down as Memphis. Such severe weather must freeze the buds of peaches, plums, apricots, and perhaps apples, so as to kill the greater part of them. Pruning should be early attended to in the Spring, clipping off nearly all the wood of the last year's growth, as that is the part that will be injured if any. If that is not done, the tree will look unbealthy all Summer, and it will be just what it looks. If you would save your trees, do

not spare the knife. SOUTHERN ENIGRATION TO KANSAS, -On the 5th of SOUTHERN ENIGRATION TO KANSAS.—On the 5th of April a regiment of volunteers from Alabama will leave Montgomery for Kansas under the command of Major Buford. The regiment will be composed of 400 men, divided into companies of 50 cach, commanded and drilled by efficers chosen by themselves. The outfit is to be six blankets, one gnn, one knapsack and one frying-pan. Major Buford is to pay the expenses of the regiment to Kansas, and in return the members are to acquire a preemption and pay bim out of that. The men are bona fide settlers, who go to Kansas as a permanent place of residence. The men are bonn not seldence, permanent place of residence.
[Savannah (Ges.) Republican.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE

To the Editor of the N. Y. Tribune. SIR: The Report of J. C. Dobbin, Secretary of the Navy, is indeed a lame defense of the action of the late Navy Board, and particularly weak in its admissions of fact, to wit: that the late Navy Board, called the Efficiency Board, made "great mistakes." It is upon the magnitude of these mistakes, both those of the Board and those of the Secretary, that I now

NAVY.

desire your indulgence to communicate information. The paramount mistake I conceive to be in the erroteous assumption of fact that the American Navy in its personnel was comparatively inefficient, and required reform: when, in truth, the fact is, that as compared with other Navies of European Governments, its personnel is and has been conspicuous for its efficiency. The cases to the contrary are rare and exceptional individual instances, for which there is now an adequate remedy in regular Court Martial.

efficiency. The case to the contain an exceptional individual instances, for which there is now an adequate remedy in regular Court-Martial, and in the authority which can be always exercised by the Secretary of not giving employment to men who do not deserve it.

I do not think there is one of the officers who have been dropped by this Board of Inquiry who would not be given the command of a frigate in any of the European Navies, where the superior efficiency of American Naval officers is well known. The same may be said of the retired or furloughed list.

There is another very important and erroneous assumption of fact, that 101 of the 447 officers who have been selected from 712 officers in the Navy, as the active list, are mentally, physically and morally in-

been selected from 712 officers in the Navy, as the active list, are mentally, physically and morally incompetent to perform their whole duty on sea and on land. That is to say, that fifty per cent of one half of the clite of the Navy is in this deplorable condition. The good sense of the people will not fail to enable them to see that this proposition is in itself preposterous. They will also see that the men who have been retried or dropped, are not superannuated, but in the prime of life, and have spent the better part of their lives in acquiring a special skill in navigating naval ships and doing naval duty, and that the Board assumes that experience acquired in this department of life, undoing naval duty, and that the Board assumes that experience acquired in this department of life, unlike skill in all other professions, is not of value. The Government baving had the use of that skill and experience for a great number of years, are under certain equitable obligations to these men not to deprive them of honorable commissions that enabled them only to live, without the ability to acquire a competence, and that by a "summary process," which has been rightly characterized as a Star Chamber decision, not unlike the proceedings of the Spanish Inquisition. The public will also see that it is adding insult to injury to say that this degrading deprivation of office is "honorable" and generous on the part of the Government, and that the recommendation of the Secretary of the poor man's plaster of simply a year's pay is silly, beause the Government publishes a slander upon the fair reputation of these men, which deprives them of employment in the ernment publishes a stander upon the lair reputation of these men, which deprives them of employment in the mercantile marine while in the prime of life, and many of them with families to support, and who, having ac-quired no skill in other professions, are left to beg or starve, with an unjust stigma on their fair names. The public already know that the Board numbers,

starve, with an unjust stigma on their fair names.

The public already know that the Board numbers, among the list of mertally, morally and physically incompetent, Lieuts. Gillis, Maury, Porter, Gedney, Stout, Maffit, and scores of others who have rendered the American Navy illustrious through their valuable scientific labors.

The Secretary endeavors to show that the Board made "a careful examination," as required by the law, and the opinion of the Attorny-General upon it, and that he (the Secretary) had spread before the Board the records of the Department; and in the same paper put forth as a State paper) he states that the Board "commenced their joint labors on the 20th "of June, and reported the result on the 26th of July"—less than a month being thus employed to consider seven hundred and twelve cases upon which they were required to form "judgment"—that is to say, legal, equitable and impartial decisions, according to the facts. The time they were in session, most certainly, would not enable them to do this. A careful computation of the time this Board was in session has been made, and it only allows twelve minutes and forty seconds to each case, which would not be more than sufficient time for them to write, collect, sort and count votes on each case, much less to read the history of the acts of the officers of the Navy from the time when they entered it as Midshipmen to the present. It does not appear to occur to the mind of the Secretary that a "summary process" is not "a careful examination," and that his records, if they were really copied from the files of the Department or examined upon the files by the Board, (which I am satisfied they were not,) would be exparte evidence, and unjust to proceed upon to arrive at a safe "judgment" by "a careful examination." Where, I would ask, is the justification for a "summary proceeding" in this law!—in the Constitution of the country or in the Common Law of the land!

The Secretary compliments the Board as a suitable selection, but I have yet to find any one of the same opinion except as to two members, Perry and McCowly, who disapprove of the proceedings of the Board, and "only regret that they did not protest "against it."

The Secretary has some fine compliments for Gillis and Maury, both of whom have been degraded by th Naval Board—but not one for those who have been

The officers of the Navy, whose names and position are well known to their countrymen, deem it due to their brother officers in this service, who are, perhaps, less known, but not less deserving, that they should stand together and oppose the entire action of this Na-val Board as a great public wrong—trenching upon the Constitution, and not affording them any rights of trial and defense according to established usage, in courts where so extensive and permanent an injury is done to the "reputation and estate" of the officers. If they are to be hung they ask first to be tried. If If they are to be himp they ask first to be tried. If they are to be dishonorably depriced of employment they think it but just that they should know the reason and the evidence (if any) upon which those reasons were based. Respecting this the Secretary writes to one of the officers who has been sacrificed, since the decision of the Board, as follows:

"The Board of Naval Officers recently convened in Washington, in accordance with the law, sacrety reported the same and ranks of officers who, in their judgment, came within the provision of the recent Act of Congress, but not the facts or the grounds upon which their action was based. No charge secret preferred against any officer. You will perceive, therefore, that I am anable to comply with your request to know what the charges were against you, kert.

That is, indeed, all the Board did. They reported That is, indeed, all the Beard did. They reported the rames and ranks of those who stood above them on the list of promotion, without exception, or who in any way during their lifetime, from superior knowledge, skill or achievement, stood above them in the public estimation, and thereby or in any other way offended then—for what? For disgrace? for dishonorable retirement in the prime of life upon a pittance? or for total deprivation of employment, though unfit for other duty, without an American red cent to buy bread with?

MECHANICAL DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE TRESENCE AND POWER OF SPIRITS.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

Size: The volume lately published by Dr. Hare on this subject, is a remarkable one in several respects and not less so as coming from the pen of one of the most eminent experimental philosophers of the age. Received by Spiritualists as a canonical book, it is deemed by unbelievers an evidence of mental disease Those who charge the latter on the venerable author he asserts, are unconscious that their education has associated morbid incredulity with fanatical credence to such a degree as to incapacitate them for passing impartially on the subject, that they strain at spiritual gnats while swallowing scriptural camels. As may be gnate while swallowing scriptural earnels. As may be supposed, the work contains strange revelations, but it is to the machines, and more particularly to one of them, that we wish to refer for the purpose of suggesting a simple test of its value, and of conclusively determing the amount or intensity of the spirits, alleged action upon it.

As Dr. Hare long resisted the usual proofs of the presence and active of spirits.

As Dr. Hare long resisted the usual proofs of the presence and activity of spirits. "being impossible, he says, for any one to be more inc. edulous than he was, he is therefore prepared to exercise great forbearance toward the unconverted, whose ignorance or prejudices still cloud their vision. He believes the wonders he records, because he has witnessed them, and "under test conditions." We do not helieve them, because we have not seen them, nor should we then unless we also had facilities afforded thoroughly to "test" them. We are sure Dr. Hare cannot object to this.

That tables and other objects, moving without any known cause, present a legitimate subject of serious and scientific inquiry, is clear enough; and that such

and ccientific inquiry, is clear enough; and that such inquiry, had long ago been made had the requisite facilities been afforded, is certain. But the fact is, impressions uninavariable to belief in the spiritual hypothesis are constantly arising, as heretofore, from the cenduct of medidus. To say nothing of the money the chief of them professionally make how is their thesis are constantly arising, as heretotore, non-conduct of medidms. To say nothing of the money the chief of them professionally make, how is it—if they are fully embured with a sense of the awful value of their revelations in meliorating human condition and affording evidence surpassing that of the Scrip-tures, of immortality—that they are not always ready to remove the scruples of visitors, and with that view charrially to encourage investigation? Instead of cheerfully to encourage investigation? Instead of this, they affect displeasure at the expression of doubts and resent them as reflections on their probity. This is suspicious. It may not be intended to check in

quiry, but it looks like it and it certainly is inconsistent with the overpowering importance of the facts they profess to disclose. As the mouth-pieces of spirits, they have no right to indulge in ill-humor, and if it be the spirits themselves that are so toushy, we should little regret the loss of their acquaintance. It might be supposed that during the enlistment of such a champion as Dr. Hare, unusual amenity would have been exercised, and especially at the turning-point or crisis of his convictions; but no; the lady then petulently told him he was too incredulous, and she retused to proceed. On the following day she "releated." While perusing this part of his narrative, we could not resist the idea that it was the Doctor himself to whom the term was applicable.

While perusing this part of the variety of variety of the variety

deed, it has long been evident that they and to accent contriver among them, or they would not have introduced the abominably bunging mode of spelling out what they want to say by rapping on which they want to say by rapping on floors. Of this they ought to have been ashaned years ago, and not have waited till Dr. Hare chabled them by his "spiriscopes" to abandon the gross thumping system. Their readiness to adopt improvements makes, however, some amends for their duliness; and as progress is proclaimed an element of their existence, it is to be hoped they will furnish evidence of it in their future modes of communing with us; that the whiring discs of Dr. Hare and their accompanying levers, cords and pulleys will give place to the simple penell or pen, which they occasionally handle under tables and within table-drawers; and further, that as their bashfulness diminishes, instead of speaking indistinctly through tubes, and occasionally making their hands visible in the dark, they will drop all valis, step forth in proprise persona, and converse error roce, as sociable and friendly spirits ought to do.

The volume opens with four plates of apparatus. Except one, in which the bands of the mediam are immersed in water, the spirit transmitting its power through the fluid and fingers to a balanced board, the new contrivances are substantially alike. A round dial, like the face of a clock, with the letters of the alphabet instead of figures marked on it, is their distinguishing feature. In some it is stationary, with a movable index; in others the latter is fixed, and the confabulating spirit turns the dial. Those things, we are told, were contrived by Dr. Hare, to determine whether manifestations attributed to spirits could be made without mortal aid, and by deciding the question affirmatively, led to his conversions.

But even with them, (the working of which is so much alier and the more of the following expressions printed on his spiritscopes: "Ne," "Yes," "Don't know," "Taink so," "Spell over," "Mastake," "Masta

their power.

In the two experiments recorded, "the force exerted and in the two experiments recorded, the core exercise by the efficiating spirit' was in one case three pounds, and in the other seven; but, as the relative distances of the vase and balance-scale from the fulcrum were as one te six, the actual force, we are told, on the balance in the first experiment was 18, and in the second 42 pounds. But it is said there was no REACTION— 42 pounds. But it is said there was NO REACTION—
a mystery which Dr. Hare can only account for by
supposing spirits have the power to deprive bodies of
their res inertia. Now it is easy to settle the question whether the law by which a force exerted in one
direction reacts equally in the opposite one was in this
case suspended, and whether it is in the power of spir-

Nothing more is required than that the medium stand, while operating upon a platform scale, so that every variation of his weight upon it may be instantly seen. This is, we think, an experimentum cracis; for, if fairly made, it will determine beyond question whether the weight thrown on one scale by the medi-m's hands be or be not subtracted from the other at his feet, and vice versa. (The vessel of water might be laid aside. The medium might just as well place his hands directly on the board, unless officiating spirits

te to nentralize it.

prefer the bath.)

If Dr. Hare will repeat the experiment, as suggested, with a moiety of the acumen that has characterized his chemical researches, and if he does not find the law of action and reaction in full force, he will not be actions at his feet. A soon have the sacans of all nations at his feet. A more conclusive mechanical proof of the presence of an unknown power could not be given, and there could be no resisting it.

THE POLAR SEA. To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: In your paper of the 26th inst. you give a communication from Eagle River, Lake Superior, showing that Dr. Kane did not first discover the open ocean which surrounds the North Geographical Pole, but that this was done on the ice, just as Kane did it, some thirty years since, by a Russian in the employment of

thirty years since, by a Russian in the employment of his government.

Now, as early as October last, when the press was husly attributing this discovery to Dr. Kane, I gave to The Buffalo Express a communication for the benefit of such as wished to have the facts in the case, showing that this ocean was not only seen, but sailed upon, more than one hundred years since! It was navigated in 1754 by a whaleship from Greenland; and to save rejecting the particulars here, I inclose the article entire for your perusal, as you may not have noticed it earlier.

thee entire for your persons, and the entire for your persons, whatever may be the landable anxiety of individuals to figure foremost in matters of this sort, it is certainly of still higher importance to science that the actual facts of history should be preserved; and it is solely with this view that I trouble you in this instance.

Truly yours.

R. W. HAEKINS. Buffalo, Jan. 28, 1856.

The following is the article referred to by our cor-

The following is the article referred to by our correspondent:

The return of the expedition sent north to seek for Dr. Kane and his party, that had been so long lost anid Arctic ice, but an early the property of the source more directed public attention to that region of cold; and we ree it mentioned that the chief discovery made by this expedition, is that the sea is open to a great extent to the north of the regions where all the 'Polar Expedition's have been expedition, is that the sea is open to a great extent to the north of the regions where all the 'Polar Expedition's have been expedition's been by connecting it with what was before known upon this subject, and which this new observation so well confirms.

That the sea is constantly unfrozen for a great distance around the North pouraphical pole has long been believed by those who have been at the pains to become acquainted with the facts in the case. The Greenland whale ships have brought us numerous accounts of heavy sea wells which they often encountered from the morth-mast of Spitzbergen, which could only come from an open sea; and persons who have resided in Lapsican the case of the same thing. These facts show that such wind had come from open water instead of having passed over a frozen enface.

The Kane left his vessel fact in the ice, in latitude 280 49 from which point the sea was all open, as far as the eye could reach. This fact derives much interest from connection with our prior knowledge upon the same point. It is now as all the stop is a surface of the same fairude. In 1754 a Greenland whaleship as cited by Metcalf, called the San Numph, and commanded by Gap. When, in the latter end of June, after salling through drifting ice from 74° to 81° of north latitude, proved to be a surfaced by Cap. When, in the latter end of June, after salling through drifting ice from 74° to 81° of north latitude, proved to while so latitude while so la

anxions to push on to the geographical pole, but the supermittee's crew prevented.

"It is evident, then, that this open see is constantly on the series of the Northern Oceans, the quantity and onto secasionally so, for, although we do well know then, parts of the Northern Oceans, the quantity and onton the ice varies greatly, some years with others, yet this open is in higher latitudes than that, and is evidently open at a times, according to the testimony which we have upon the second that the latitude of a piace is not the chief as ject. That this may not seem to be a contradiction, we have ment in determining its temperature. Instance Quebec, when ment in determining its temperature. Instance Quebec, when the determining its temperature. Instance Quebec, which we are the second to the course of frozen surface in the second that the latitude is 40°, and yet its mean annual temperature is almost a second to the course of frozen surface in the course of the second term which surrounds Quebec, fully accounts for this difference and as this polar ocean is of sufficient extent and depth sects freeze, the wind from its surface is always warmer than the which has passed over an extended surface of grow or ice."

SHAKER LIBERALITY.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune:
Sir: With your permission I should like to ask the gentleman who lectured at the Tabernacle last evening a question through the medium of your valevening a question through the medium of your valuable paper. He was understood to take the position that there was nothing in Shaker theology, etc., which antagonized with any scientific principle. As science pushed her discoveries into new realms, other system of theology had to be amended and altered in order to keep pace with the progress of the age; but not a with his system. Now if the position taken be correct, why do the community, of which the speaker is a leading influential member, exclude from their school in any every book that illustrates a scientific principal And why are its members, with a few exceptions, kept under strict surveillance as to what they read? Further and candid answers to the above inquiries may serve to reflect more light upon this topic than was given a the lecture which it was my privilege to attend. the lecture which it was my privilege to attend.

New York, Feb. 1, 1856.

A LISTENER.

METHODIST PREACHERS.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune. SIR: Will you allow me to correct your statemen

in to-day's TRIBUNE of the average receipts of the ministers of the New-York Conference for last year, It is meager enough at the best, but it is not quite a

bad as your account represents it.

The average receipts of all the preachers for last year, exclusive of house rent, was \$419. Number of ministers actually engaged 171, instead of 186, as represented in your item.

Peb. 2, 1836.

FREE NEGROES IN GEORGIA.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE LEGISLATURE OF GEORGIA

JAN. 25.

From The Saranseh Republican.

The bill for the removal of free negroes was next taken up. Dr. Phillips offered a substitute recommending the propriety of assessing them all with a tax to raise a fund to be used for the purpose of removing them.

taken up. Dr. Phillips offered a substitute recommending the propriety of assessing them all with a tax to raise a fund to be used for the purpose of removing them.

Mr. Jones spoke in opposition to the bill and the substitute. The principle involved in this measure was revolting to his nature. The dignity of the Legislature should be above such paltry, ungenerous movements as waging war on the poor, defenseless, unrepresented portion of the community—a portion having no means of redress in case they are wronged, holding the intermediate position between slaves and the lowest class of whites. If any class needed protection, they did; and if any class should be free from persecution, they should.

The philanthropical gentlemen engaged in the colonization scheme, animated with the purest motives of benevolence and charity, after having witnessed the effects of exportation, characterized it as a curse upon the free negroes. Every returning ship brings earnest petitions from these poor unhappy exiles, driven from this free country, to be brought back again to the country of their birth and their friends.

Mr. Crook of Chattoogs, in reply, said that this was an act of self-preservation, of deliberate, prudent estimation of dire consequence to result from presence of a dangerous people. Other Southern States have enacted laws similar to this, the Free-States excluded them, and thus, in Georgia, would gather this almost outcast population in numbers sufficient to warrant the idea of danger.

Mr. Dawson of Greene, addressing himself to the arguments of Mr. Crook, said there were statutes prohibiting the introduction of free negroes. Joel Early of Greene liberated thirty slaves, all of whom went to Liberia—and of this number one was living, the rethand of the laws of the State forbid manumission. He had observed those who lived in his county to be orderly and well-behaved.

Mr. Haynie—Chattooga has but ninety-three negroes, and consequently there is no cause for alarm on the part of the gentleman from that county.

Mr.

quence.

Dr. Phillips supported Mr. Crook with great power and in the course of his remarks brought up the name of Jefferson.
Mr. Lawton of Chatham, said that he knew a large

Mr. Lawton of Chatham, said that he knew a large number of old residents in Savannah, slaveholders, who were well acquainted with every change that had taken place in the circumstances of the blacks, and those men apprehended no danger. The free negroes were orderly, hardworking, industrious, law-respecting people. He differed from the gentleman concerning the colonization society. He believed it was a medium of much good; different accounts had been received from Liberia, and they seemed to be doing well there. He did not think now was the proper time to legislate on the subject.

legislate on the subject.

Mr. Harris of Fulton objected to so summary a position of such an important matter. Introduced a distinguished legislator, some action should be tall upon it—the people expected and demanded it. subject was portponed indefinitely.

A LADY ON BEARDS.

A fair correspondent of The Home Journal has the following sensible remarks on the wholesome habit of wearing the beard, which has lately come into fashion

"It is astonishing what change a few years ha "It is astonishing what change a few years have wrought in regard to shaving. Once, everybedy shaved, but now, I much mistake, if every gentleman has not found to shave or not to shave, a question suggested by his morning toilet. Alas for the razortion man. His accupation is nearly gone. I hope he will succeed in finding another, for the present generation will be a hearded race.

"I was quite interested last Winter in reading a "Natural History of the Human Species," by Lieuterant-Colonel Charles Hamilton Smith, in which he states that the hearded races are the conquering races. For this reason the heardless races are averse to the union with them. This aversion he states to be the

For this reason the beardes are the conquering races. For this reason the beardless races are averse to the union with them. This aversion he states to be the result of experience, proving the superior activity of those who have spring from such races. Jengha, Timur and Nadir Shah, were directly, or in their succestry, descended from Concasian mothers, and hence, also, the jealous exclusion of European women from China. The progressive nations, he tells us, are a bearded and hairy race. Samson's strength lay in his hair. Bereft of that his mighty power was gone. The lion is king of the forest. How much of his preed beauty he owes to his magnificent mane. Shave him, and he is king no longer.

"I cannot imagine why a beard is given to man, anless it is to try his patience, if he is to spend his time in a daily cutting it off, as it daily asserts its right to a manifested existence. The heard is an emblem of manly power and dignity, and is certainly an alement of manly beauty. The Father of the Faithful and all the old Patriarchs and Prophets wore a beard; so did our Savier, when he dwelt as man among the hills of Judea. So, too, most of the venerable divines who have transmitted to us their schemes of theology. It is a modern innovation to shave off the whole beard. It was not common before the commencement of the last century. Moses forbade the Jews to mar the corners of the beard, and David, when his Embassador were insulted by Hanan's shaving off one-half their beards, permitted them to tarry at Jerieho till their beards, permitted them to tarry at Jerieho till their beards, permitted them to tarry at Jerieho till their beards, had power.

"While the beard, properly worn, is an ornament, it

beards, permitted them to tarry at Jericho till their beards had grown.

"While the beard, properly worn, is an ornament, it is sometimes rendered hideous by the manner in which it is trimmed. A round mass of bristles on the chis is never becoming, yet sometimes thin-cheeked, long-faced gentlemen elongate their countenances in the way; often these tuffs impart a low, animal expression; they never confer dignity nor beauty. Some few are greatly improved by full whiskers, others by a moustache. Some look best with the beard trimmed rather close. It requires an artist's eye to decide os what is most becoming. Nature leaves a varying outline to the beard which is more perfect than any semicircle cut by the razor.

line to the beard which is indice persecutive of the razor.

"Pehaps you may think I have wandered from my proper sphere in writing about beards. I had no ide of doing so when I commenced this letter; you must charge it all to the snow-storm. I must leave the subject of ladies' dress for another day.

"Yours, &c., "ANNA HOPE."

LETTING THE UNION SLIDE. - A resolution asserting that the Missouri Compromise ought not to have been submitted to, even to save the Union, has passed the popular branch of the Legislature of Alabama by a vote of 62 to 26. The author of the resolution is the control of Livited States Seates 1 son of a United States Senator who represented Alabama when the Compromise was passed in 1820, and who veted for it.